

# LONG ISLAND FORUM



West Main Street, Bay Shore, 1901, Showing the Old Carleton Opera House  
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Clarence A. Wood, LL.M., Ph.D.  
John C. Huden, Ph.D.  
Robert R. Coles  
Julian Denton Smith, Nature

**Statement**

Required by the Act of August  
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None.

Paul Bailey, Owner  
Sworn to and subscribed before  
me this 1st day of October 1956.

Hugo C. Waldau Jr.  
Notary Public.

(My commission expires March  
30, 1957.)

**Bay Shore Was Penataquit**

We have been asked why the  
name of Bay Shore plays no part  
in the early history of Islip town  
or before it was founded as a  
town in 1710. The answer is that  
the name Bay Shore is compara-  
tively modern. Known in early  
days as Mechanicsville, perhaps  
because of one or more blacksmith  
shops in the neighborhood, at a  
meeting of inhabitants held at the  
home of Jeremiah Chapman on  
July 14, 1849, "it was unanimously  
resolved that the name of the  
village be changed and that it  
hereafter be called Penataquit.  
Jonathan Smith, chairman; Seth R.  
Clock, secretary."

The name Penataquit came from  
a local creek which in more recent  
times has assumed the dignity of  
Penataquit river. According to  
Tooker's Indian Place-Names on  
Long Island, in an Indian deed for  
Aweeksa Neck to John Mowbray,  
May 30, 1701, the bounds given  
were "northward from the heads  
of Cagaunk and Penataquitt  
rivers to the bounds between the  
North and South Indians." Ben-  
jamin F. Thompson (1839) gave  
the name to the neck. The name  
appears also as Penettiquott in

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# Jabez Peck, Teacher-Playwright

CLINTON Academy at East Hampton, founded in 1784 by the Reverend Dr. Samuel Buell, was the second academy chartered by the State Board of Regents. On December 28, 1784 the proprietors of the Academy voted "that Mr. Jabez Peck be elected master of the classic school and Mr. William Payne master of the English and writing school." Its first trustees advertised that the first college preparatory school on Long Island had "the best instructors and tutors that can possibly be obtained."

Jabez Peck was born in Norwich, Connecticut, on October 18, 1761, the third son of Simeon and Ruth (Willes) Peck. By the time Jabez was ready for college, his father had moved to Lebanon, New Hampshire, and Jabez entered Dartmouth College in 1780. In April of 1783, however, he joined the junior class at Yale, and three months later he was received into the College Church on a letter from the church in Dartmouth College. After graduation from Yale with the Class of 1784, he undertook in the twenty-fourth year of his age to teach as part of the faculty of the new academy.

An allegorical play from the pen of Jabez Peck, entitled "Columbia and Britannia" and written after his days' teaching duties were over, has come down to us in two variants. The manuscript of sixty-seven pages, acquired by the New York Historical Society on March 24, 1955, is the more interesting of the two because it contains the name of its author, the cast of its characters, all of the stage directions, and the two dates when it was performed at Clinton Academy. On the inside front cover of this prompt copy appears a notation inserted by one of the youthful actors: "John Lyon Gardiners Book," followed by the date April 13, 1786.

*Dr. Charles A. Huguenin*

lowed by the date April 13, 1786.

The drama was given first on April 6, 1786 in the hall of the East Hampton academy, and a second performance was given three months later on July 6, with three changes in the original cast. The printed copies from the press of T. Green at New London in 1787, one of which is in the East Hampton Free Library, states the pedagogic purpose of the play as "Improvement in Elocution for a select number of students" by some one who used the pseudonym "Philophron." The theme of the play is the Revolutionary War—a particularly propitious topic, since its performance followed the evacuation of the British by a little more than two years. The aim "to impress on the minds of the rising generation the inestimable value of the liberties they possess, and the dangerous struggles their predecessors endured to secure to them those invaluable blessings" was alleged in the printed copy to be another purpose in Peck's writing the play.

Written mainly in rough

blank verse and comprising seven acts with fifteen scenes, the play is replete with declamatory speeches and is, therefore, well designed to fulfill its major purpose of affording training in elocution. No mention is made in the manuscript of stage properties, so it is to be assumed that the audience brought its imagination along with it. Interspersed throughout the play at the close of particular scenes, four songs popular at the time were introduced: "Columbia," "Bunker Hill," "The Fall of General Wolfe, or Britannia's Lamentation," and "The Dauphin of France"—the last two altered. These songs were probably intended to correspond with the Greek choruses. Each of the historical characters had a classical pseudonym, and in consonance with the principles of Greek drama, actions involving violence and bloodshed were simply reported instead of being shown.

Here all resemblance to classical models in Peck's play ceases. His plot is episodic and ignores the unities of time and place. The action is spread over many years, and the scenes shift without warn-



Clinton Academy, East Hampton, Built in 1784

ing from continent to continent. If the sneaking Tory who eavesdrops behind the curtains of the inner stage was introduced to provide comic relief in a production of a desperately serious nature, the play also violates the classical unity of action.

Here are the Dramatis Personae enumerated in the manuscript copy: Fabius, John C. Brush, General Washington; Arator, John Lyon Gardiner, General Lee; Iracundus, David Gardiner, General Putnam; Sophos, Platt Buffet, Hancock; Perjurus, Maltby Gelston, Traitor Arnold; Paramount, Samuel Buell, Lord North; Orontes, Joseph Pitkin, British General; British Lords—Scotos, John C. Hedges; Justitius, Nathaniel Smith; Ireneus, Frederic Halsey; Indignus, John Brush; Avarus, Joseph Woodruff; also, Columbia, Polly Chapman, America; Britannia, Nancy Rysam, Britain; Gallia, Polly Hedges, France.

When the performance of Peck's play was repeated, there were three changes in the cast, and John Lyon Gardiner was substituted for Nathaniel Bunce in the delivery of the Prologue: Indignus, Nathaniel Woodbridge; Justitius, Maltby Gelston; Gallia, Fanny Rysam.

Twenty-five-year-old Frederic Halsey was probably the oldest actor in the cast. While he was studying divinity under Dr. Buell, he taught at Clinton. He went on to graduation from Columbia College in 1790 and became a Congregational minister at Plattsburg, N. Y. Twenty-year-old Maltby Gelston, a Southampton boy, took the unpopular part of Traitor Arnold in the play. He went on to graduation from Yale with the Class of 1791, studied theology under Jonathan Edwards, became a Congregational minister, and preached for forty-five years at Sherman in Connecticut. Twenty-one-year-old Platt Buffet was graduated from Yale with the same class as Gelston, also entered the

Continued on page 212

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## "Sandy" the Sandpiper

THE "Sandy" story is being put together in May and I have just phoned a beach-minded friend to tell him, "Sandy is back!" This is the third season we have spotted him—we know him only by his voice. While our ears tell us Sandy is one of the sandpipers we are watching, we can not determine which one as he looks and acts like every other bird in the flock. Only his voice is different. It is easy to become acquainted with a bird that is definitely off color, or has a bent wing, or assumes an out-of-character motion, but it is a different matter to identify a single bird by the sound of his voice, and especially when the normal voice has a tiny, chirping, conversational pitch readily drowned out by minor incidental sounds. Sandpipers talk softly and weakly as though not to disturb one of their number who might be napping.

But, anyhow, Sandy is back!

I first heard Sandy on a still September evening when the ocean rested calm, like a little lake. I walked along the shore on the hard sand above the slow, lazy wash of the waves. I could hear soft, easy chirpings but could not be sure where they originated. Sometimes they seemed ahead of me and then in back. I swung my flashlight around and it caught a sudden flurry of wings at the very edge of the waves, and five or six little sandpipers took off in fright. They were sandpipers all right.

One of them did not sound true, his voice had a break in it—something like boys get when their voices are changing. I put my flashlight away as it seemed to startle the little flock. I stood waiting for the birds to settle and pick up their conversations once more. Again I heard the

*Julian Denton Smith*

strangely broken voice. I followed the birds in the dark by the sound of their voices as they fed along the edge of the waves. The one with the peculiar voice stayed in the group.

I listened to the soft talk of another little flock in back of me. This gave all in the same tone and scale range without any unusual, unexpected variation. Upon returning to the first group the odd voice still distinguished itself by its broken quality.

I told a bird-watcher who would be wonderfully interested in a variance like this and together we have listened to sandpipers, day or night, whenever we have had the chance and whenever there has not been too much noise to drown out the tiny pipings.

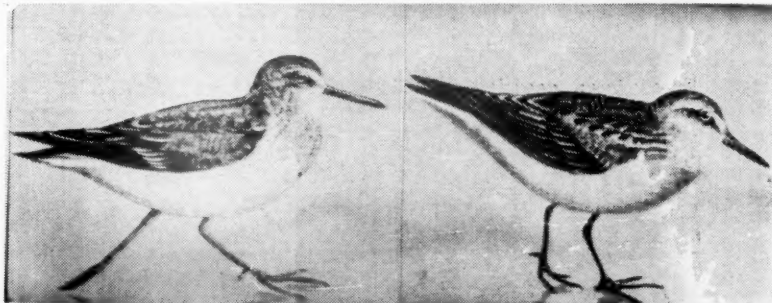
Almost two months later and near the same spot the two of us heard Sandy's cracked voice. That was when we named the bird. Sandy carried on much more conversation this second appearance and sprinkled all thru his talk were the broken words and syllables. No other oddity occurred to distinguish the one bird from any other in the flock.

Neither of us heard Sandy again until the following May—early one Sunday morning, Mother's Day, 1955. He worked with a flock of fif-

teen or eighteen sandpipers, and the strange voice alone told that Sandy was one of the group.

I heard him one night in August. He was feeding with more sandpipers at the edge of a very quiet surf. They scampered up and down with the flush of the waves. The moon shone brightly which made it easy to keep the birds in sight. Sandy joined in the talk frequently and always his voice cracked several times in short bird sentences.

And now in May I have heard Sandy once more. He has been many, many miles since I first listened to his distinguishing tones. He has flown up to Alaska or north-eastern Canada twice and has wintered along the Carolina or Florida coasts. I can not say definitely that Sandy has been to Alaska or to north-eastern Canada because I do not know which kind of sandpiper he is, and that makes a difference. We find, generally, only two kinds of sandpipers at the edge of our beach, the Least Sandpiper and the Semi-palmated Sandpiper. These look so much alike that it is almost a guess which is which. The one sure way of identification is in the feet. The Least Sandpiper has separated toes, the Semi-palmated Sandpiper, as the name implies, has toes that are webbed near the base. But who can ever get close enough



Sandpipers

to sandpipers to have a look at their toes!

The sandpipers fly north for their nesting season. They usually leave us early in June and return in August bringing the young along with them. According to some authorities the Semi-palmated Sandpipers fly to Alaska seeking the Arctic Circle beyond the mouth of the Yukon River. No one knows for certain what aerial route they take—they leave here and arrive there. They lay four eggs in a shallow little scooped-out depression. Almost as soon as the young come from the shell they are able to scurry around and find their own food, relieving the parents of nest-feeding. The older birds stay with the young teaching them sandpiper ways until the offspring are big and strong enough for the long trip back to our locality. Usually two of the four do not mature—life is too strenuous.

The Least Sandpiper flies far north up the Canadian east coast for the nesting season. Their habits are similar to the Alaskan group and again it is a 50-50 chance of survival.

When sandpipers return to our shores in August, the shortening days are already noticeable. The sandpipers feed continually and generously in the late summer days and they actually grow fat.

As the days become cooler and increasingly windy, the little birds love to sit for hours hidden away under grass tussocks. Soon a very definite chill inclines to linger permanently and the sandpipers slip away almost unnoticed as family follows family down the coast to less severe winter quarters.

I think all of us miss the sandpipers when they are not with us. I know I do. To me sandpipers are as necessary to the beach as dunes and sea gulls. Without any one of the three the beach has lost character. I never feel this way about terns as, I think, we would be as well off without them. Their slipshod, beligerent, careless nesting practices rub me the wrong way. That sandpipers fly thousands of miles to rear a family and most rarely succeed with half, seems to me really remarkable.

It is unlikely that Sandy's voice will become normal this year during his summer season up north—he has carried this unusual boyish quality for three years. I shall be watching out again for him after Labor Day and I rather imagine he will not let me down.

Maybe a reader would like to listen for him, too. He is heard most often within the first mile west of Parking Field No. 1 at Jones Beach

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## Island's Early Lotteries

THE pastor of St. George's Church at Hempstead in 1763 wrote in his diary that ticket No. 5866 in the second Sandy Hook lighthouse lottery "drew in my favor by the blessing of God 500 pounds" for which he recorded his "thanks and praise to Almighty God, the Giver of all good gifts, Amen."

The lottery had been authorized by the colonial assembly May 22, 1762 in the sum of \$3,000. The money derived therefrom having proved insufficient to complete the lighthouse, a second drawing took place June 13 of the following year. The Sandy Hook beacon was the second such built in the American colonies. The first was erected near Nantucket.

The Hempstead clergyman who drew the lucky number was Rev. Samuel Seabury, descendant of John Alden of Puritan memory and father of Samuel Seabury, the first bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in America. The pastor of St. George's Church died the next year after he hit the jackpot, having served that church for thirty-eight years.

A quarter of a century later at the other end of Long Island, the seventh pastor of Southold's first church bought the first ticket at a lottery drawing to raise money to repair the meeting house and the school house at Cutchogue, both of which had been despoiled by the British.

Rev. John Storrs had served the church at the first English settlement on Long Island from 1763 to 1787, except for an eight year interim during the Revolution when he was a political refugee in Connecticut. He became the great-grandfather of Rev. Dr. Richard Salter Storrs, the eminent Brooklyn divine.

The drawing occurred Oct. 7, 1788. Jared Landon collected enough from the good

*Dr. Clarence Ashton Wood*

people of the town of Southold to restore the church and to rebuild the school house three years later.

A sheet of paper, yellow with age and frayed at the edges, bearing the date March 9, 1778, indicates that a lottery was scheduled to be drawn in Southold—"by the 20th of April next if full at the House of William Albertson Where the Goods Will be Delivered at the same Rate they be sold out in the Store."

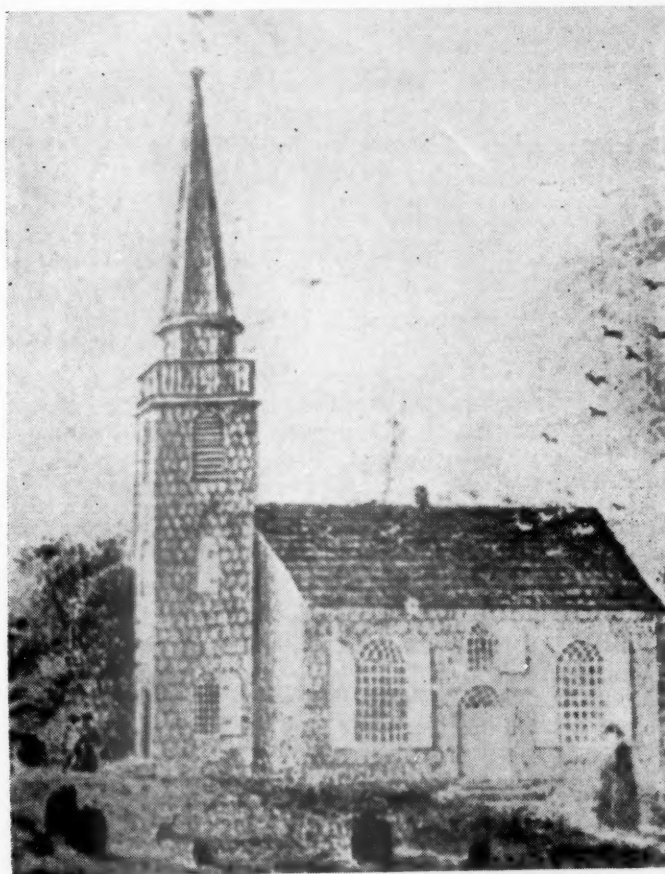
The top prize was to be "A Yonge Horse Valued by Good Judges at 26 pounds." Other prizes not specified were one

valued at 12 pounds, two at 6 pounds each, four at 3 pounds each, 8 at 3 shillings each, 10 at 1 pound, 30 at 16 shillings and 68 at 10 shillings each, a total of 124 prizes and 282 blanks.

There is nothing on the paper to show that the lottery was actually held, except this notation on the reverse of the paper: "Peter Howell No. 155".

We have it on the authority of Albertson Case, a native lawyer and justice of the peace at Southold and a lineal descendant of William Albertson, that the first of that name came there early in the

Continued on page 214



St. George's, Hempstead, in 1737, (From an Early Sketch)

**Bay Shore Was Penataquit**

Continued from page 202

1720, and later as Panothticut. Tooker defines the meaning of the word as "at the crooked creek".

Just when the name Bay Shore took the place of Penataquit is not certain, but it was not when the place was granted its first post office under President Zachary Taylor, with Seth R. Clock as the first postmaster, as has been stated by one local historian. During the 1880s and '90s it was still called Penataquit, as attested by newspapers of that era. By then the little village bordering on South Bay, with especially fine dockage and a number of deep

water creeks, had become a popular summer resort, with a number of large hotels near the water. One of the largest was the Prospect Hotel, enlarged from the old farmhouse of Selah Wicks by one of his several sons. Cortland Wicks. It eventually burned down.

There was also a Prospect House on Ocean avenue owned by John Rogers which accommodated 400 guests and was usually filled during the months of July and August. At that time Penataquit had an important fishing industry, together with large farming interests, and a shipping line to the New York markets, carrying seafood and farm products.

The real growth of Bay Shore began during the early 1900s and before the first World War it had become Islip town's metropolis.

**Inter-Forum Correspondence**

Little did I think when I penned that letter about old time L. I. Samp (August Forum) that it would bring me new friends, words from old ones, a letter from a new found cousin at Orient, a card from a gentleman in Bay Shore who said his middle name was

"Samp-and-old-fashioned-molasses", and a letter from a sincere friend in Brookhaven.

Also a lady living in New York City wrote that I cheered her and brought back memories of South-old friends of yore.

And so, though 86 in February, I feel my time is well spent in sending the Forum my memories of long ago, inspired by Dr. John C. Huden's reference to Samp in your widely read monthly.

(Mrs.) Eva Gordon Slaterbeck  
Brooklyn

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Whitman, by Arvin, 312 pp. (1938) \$12.50.

Whitman Manuscripts, Trent Collection, 148 pp. (1945) \$3.00.

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## Campaign Excitement in 1792

**R**UDYARD KIPLING in one of his short stories "The Ship that Found Herself" shows each part conscious of its own importance and pulling against the others until a great storm welded them into one—the ship itself. So it was with our Republic. When the stormy days of the Revolution were over, there were still hot political battles to be fought, and many difficult days ahead, before the United States of America became truly one nation.

Judging from letters received from friends by my great - great - grandfather, Selah Strong, he must have been in the thick of the political battles in New York State. By 1792 he was up for election for State Senator, and his campaign was bound up in the

*Kate W. Strong*

fight for Governor, Jay against Clinton.

Feelings certainly ran high. On May 4, 1792, his son, Benjamin Strong wrote: "As the election goes on, Clinton's friends begin to have long faces as tho they had been deceived, and are anxious lest they lose their 'Giver of Offices', and they be thereby obliged to return to their proper station of being sometimes governed instead of always governing. Should Mr. Jay be elected I flatter myself we shall have an Equal, an Equitable, and a respectable Government."

Again in June he wrote: "The Governor's election is not yet settled; the Friends of Liberty had a meeting last

Monday, when they passed several Resolutions, expressive of the Sense of the People, and appointed a Committee to Correspond with the Different Counties in the State. You will be wrote to by some of them very soon; they only Request you will use your exertions in the Cause, which is allowed by all good men to be a good one. You must not believe all Greenleaf's Lies, as he is very Partial, and in many instances deviates very widely from the Truth. The Friends of Clinton are much dissatisfied with your election here, as by it they know they lose a great Stickler for Clinton in losing L'Hommedieu. We have it Reported that the People have Burnt the Governor's effigy

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## Hawkins Nine Twirler

The story of the history of the Hawkins Nine was particularly interesting to me, especially that reference to the reorganized team of 1915.

After completing 3 years of pitching for Richmond Hill High in 1913 and another year in semi-pro, it was my pleasure to pitch for the six Hawkins and in addition to myself, we had Dave Seaman centerfield and Eddie Helm catcher.

I marveled at the hitting ability of these so called "old men". Their timing was fine and the one game we lost was at Quogue Field Club where the Yale team spent their summer.

Some of the Yale boys were Harry Lagore shortstop; Long Tom Reilly third base; Pumpelly pitcher; Rhett or Brett second base. Lagore and Reilly had refused major league contracts from Connie Mack and were really high class hard but clean competitors. We were ahead 3-1 until the 8th inning when Lagore hit one of my outside chest high fast balls for a home run with two men on to beat us 4-3.

Dave Seaman, I meet at the Long Island Senior Golf Association tournaments and believe he is President of Suffolk County Savings and Loan in Babylon.

We used to board the train at Jamaica, change into our uniforms in the baggage car and be picked up at Riverhead by one of the Hawkins who drove us to Quogue or elsewhere down East where we were scheduled.

After the game we showered, were taken by car to Riverhead to Hud Griffing's for steak dinner and enjoyed the singing of Margaret, a daughter of one of the Hawkins and schoolmate of mine at Richmond Hill High.

Your article sure brought back pleasant memories, the kind you like to have stay with you.

Harry J. Blank  
Amityville

Note: Commodore Blank is himself president of Brooklyn's Zophar Mills, Inc., founded in 1846.

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In one instance Plandome is spelled Plendome. Hoping for further information.

John E. Nicholson  
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## Smith-Floyd Romance

I was glad to note in the October issue that Mr. Osborne (The Loves of Senator Smith) scotched that story about the romantic affair between the Senator and Betsey Floyd. Rufus Wilson tells of it in his Historic Long Island, and Harold D. Eberlein in his Famous Homes and Manor Houses on Long Island. Curator Osborne writes that it is in Tredwell's Reminiscences but I could not find it.

I have always thought that Elizabeth Woodhull was a fine woman and the letter in Mr. Osborne's story seems to confirm that opinion. She lived to a good age for her period, seventy-six, dying in 1839. Her grave is near that of her father and mother in the little Mastic cemetery while Senator Smith rests in the Smith cemetery. Elizabeth Woodhull was the mother of my father's employer when I was born on his farm in 1874. His name was Charles Jeffrey Smith. My grandfather was foreman for one of the Floyds at Mastic from about 1866 to 1877.

The October Forum certainly stirred old memories with that picture of the Greenport wharf. I can see the ferryboat Menantic waiting to carry me and some tools over to the Manhasset House on Shelter Island. Many a time Dave Raynor, blacksmith, and I have gone down on the Greenport dock to rivet up dead-eyes in the chain plates or fit a gammon-strap to the bowsprit of some fishing smack.

The powerboats shown in your picture are probably naphtha launches which were quite common in the 1890s before the gasoline marine engine became available. Thanks for the memories.

Here's an item from the Long Island Headlight of December 6, 1873, published at Farmingdale only from November 1873 to the end of February 1875: "Mrs. Elizabeth Dayton, who resides in East Hampton, is planning to repair her house, or build a new one. Many will regret the loss of a landmark that was standing during the Revolutionary War, for in that house Lord Erskine, Major Andre, and other British officers often passed their evenings, and met many of the inhabitants socially with no mention of the words Tory or Rebel."

John Tooker  
Babylon

Note: Mr. and Mrs. Tooker observed their golden wedding anniversary on October 16.

I would not be without the Forum. Charles A. Nichols, Brooklyn.

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## 1792 Campaign

Continued from page 209

in Hudson Co., and in one other of the Northern Counties they have had Recourse to Club Law and that many broken noses were the Consequence."

It was earlier, in April in fact, that a son-in-law wrote from Otsego that he feared that county's ballots would be held in question as the appointment of a new sheriff had been held up by a "Devil's Trap" and the present sheriff "will not act after his time is up." Evidently the presence of the sheriff was necessary to a fair counting of votes.

In spite of all they said about Clinton, the State seems to have had money to spare. In March 1792 a certain Col. Smith wrote that the yearly receipts of the State were 30,000 pounds which would have to be loaned out. Evidently they found means to use it up, for Ezra L'Houmedieu wrote a little later that the Senate had granted 21,000 pounds for Roads and Bridges, and he feared that the inhabitants would expect the State to mend their roads in future. However, on learning that Suffolk, Kings, and Queens Counties got 200 pounds apiece to use as the

supervisors thought best, he felt a little better.

Even President Washington was not safe from scurrilous tongues. In 1793 Benjamin Strong wrote: "In Mr. Greenleaf's paper you will see an Infamous Libel against the President called 'an extract of a letter from a Gentleman in Virginia'. There is no doubt but that it is written by some of the Gent's Tools. It has given great offence and I fear will be a Dear Publication to Greenleaf. I enclose the Resolution of the Citizens agreed to this day, and I wish you would withdraw your subscription and persuade your neighbors to do so."

In spite of his holding many public offices, Selah Strong did not forget his farm. We find him, among other things, importing sheep from England to improve his flock, because the foreign fleece was longer. Politics and farming, such was the mixture in many a man's life, in the early uneasy days of the young republic.

## Jabez Peck

Continued from page 204

Congregational ministry, and preached from 1796 until his retirement in 1835 at Greenwich in Connecticut.

The Gardiner brothers and John Chatfield Hedges were teen-agers. Sixteen-year-old John Lyon Gardiner went on to graduation from Princeton in 1789 and thereafter became seventh proprietor of Gardiner's Island. Fourteen-year-old David followed in his older brother's footsteps to a Master of Arts degree from Princeton. Sixteen-year-old John Hedges, a local East Hampton boy and probably the brother of Polly, who played Gallia, died at the early age of twenty-eight and did not live long enough to make a name for himself.

The three allegorical representations of America, Britain, and France were played

Continued on next page

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**Jabez Peck**

Continued from page 212

by young ladies. Nancy and Fanny Rysam were probably sisters. The presence of three ladies in the cast indicates that Clinton Academy was co-educational from its inception despite the fact that most of the academy's rules prohibiting the breaking of windows and desks, wrestling, and wearing hats in school seem applicable solely to male pupils.

Though it has no epilogue, the play begins with a traditional prologue. Written by Peck's colleague, William Payne, in the heroic couplet form, the prologue does not appear in the printed version. The aim of the drama is herein stated, —viz., to show the New World's emergence from subjugation to freedom.

In Act I Columbia exults in her reclamation from the Indians and French and avows

her debt to Brittannia, who in turn wishes her the full enjoyment of her peace and freedom. Act II opens on a scene in the British Court, wherein all but two British nobles incite Brittannia to measures for suppressing and enslaving Columbia. In Act III a quarrel ensues, in which Brittannia calls Columbia an audacious wretch for insisting upon her "inviolable" rights.

In the first scene of Act IV the gathering clouds of war depress Columbia. In the second scene Lee, Putnam, Arnold, and Hancock vow to assist injured innocence. Scene III introduces George Washington, whom heaven has sent Columbia to lead her forces and to avenge her wrongs.

In Scene I of Act V Lee proposes and Hancock agrees that the time is ripe for Columbia's declaration of independence. In the following

scene Lee and Putnam swear with Washington on their unsheathed swords to avenge Columbia's injuries. Scene III is one of the most interesting dramatically. The traitor, Arnold, haggles over price for the surrender of West Point as a British general piles more and more of the tempting gold upon the table between them. Scene IV merely reflects the consternation that Arnold's treachery produces on Washington, Lee, and Putnam.

Scene I of Act VI introduces Gallia, whose timely aid is warmly welcomed by appreciative Columbia. Scene II presents Brittannia in mourning and in tears over the prospective loss of the war and of her American colony. The two counsellors who opposed her initial action console her and advise her to end the war, especially since Gallia has taken arms in sym-

Continued next page

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## Jabez Peck

Continued from Page 213

pathy with Columbia. In Scene III we are shown the dilemma of the British lords, the authors of Britannia's impending disaster, who have lost face. To his dismay, Arnold is coldly treated as an intruder. The scene closes on Arnold's pathetic admission that he has nowhere else to go.

The first scene of Act VII announces Columbia's final victory, with the aid of Washington's leadership and of Gallia's powerful navy. In the second scene Columbia warmly welcomes her ally, Gallia, and her erstwhile enemy, Britannia. New York State's first native Revolutionary War play ends with the cast—even the outcast Arnold—grouped on the stage in a semi-circle around Columbia, Gallia, and Britannia.

It may have been Nancy Rysam's acting that evoked in the soul of Clinton's young teacher an emotion not called for by the lines and a purpose quite foreign to the training of his students in the art of effective speaking. Certainly during rehearsals and the two performances he had ample opportunity to study his future sweetheart and wife in every changing mood. As Britannia, she ran the complete gamut of human emotions from tenderness and joy to anger and tears. He may have carried away memories that disturbed his scholastic equanimity after classroom duties were over, and solitude invited speculation.

At any rate, in 1790 or 1791, four or five years afterwards, he married his "Britannia" and left issue.

The latter part of Jabez Peck's short life will probably always remain obscured in view of the lack of evidence that has come down to us. He left Clinton and moved to New York about the same time as his colleague, Payne, for both of their names are recorded in the "New York Directory for 1791." The "New York Journal and Patriotic Register" for Saturday, May 28, 1791, announced a proposal on the part of Payne to join Peck in a scholastic venture that would afford academic instruction. Apparently both had already established themselves as teachers in New York City with schools of their own because the advertisement maintains that the two teachers had "agreed to associate their schools for the more extensive advantages of each."

Payne did not enjoy the help of his classical partner in the educational enterprise for more than a few months. Jabez Peck died in New York City "after a short indisposition" on October 4, 1791 at the age of thirty.

### Three Rocky Points

I stand corrected by Mr. John Tooker of Babylon Town. There are THREE places called Rocky Point in Suffolk County. The third one is on the west side of Fort Pond Bay. It is about two miles northwest of the hamlet of Montauk.

Samuel B. Cross  
Westhampton Beach

## Lotteries

Continued from page 207

18th century and located on property of his wife Sarah at Ashamomoque east of South-old village.

In 1797 an attempt was made in behalf of Erasmus Hall Academy in Flatbush at the west end of the Island to obtain from the State legislature authorization to raise \$1,200 by lottery to liquidate the debt of the first academy chartered by the State. The first such actually built in the State was Clinton Academy at East Hampton.

A second similar effort was made in behalf of Erasmus Hall in 1809. The desired legislation was not procured and the project was abandoned.

Back in the mid-eighteenth century some members of the Church of England obtained from the colonial assembly legislation permitting them to raise 500 pounds by lottery to finish Christ Church erected some two decades earlier, the earliest church in the village of Oyster Bay.

It is doubtful if any aid resulted from the application to the assembly dated Nov. 4, 1754 as the building fell into disuse and was taken down about forty years afterwards.

Humphrey Avery's lottery is an interesting episode in the early history of Patch-

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ogue. The drawing took place June 21, 1758. Six years earlier on March 27, 1752 he had bought at Boston of John Still Winthrop of New Haven seven necks of land on the south side of the present town of Brookhaven for 2,590 pounds and ten shillings.

Having become involved in debt, Avery was permitted by an act of the Governor and Council, Nov. 27, 1756, to "make sale of his estate by lottery."

The estate then valued at 6,900 pounds was divided into 36 lots, valued at 20 to 1,000 pounds each. Each neck south of the country road was a lot by itself. The woodland north of that road was divided into lots of comparatively little value.

Eight thousand tickets were issued, which were sold at 30 shillings each. There were 1,616 prizes, 1,580 cash prizes of three pounds each, together with 6,384 blanks.

The lottery was liberally advertised in the New York Gazette, the principal New York newspaper of the day, as "a place freed and absolutely secured from the inroads and ravages of the

Enemy"—a reminder that the French War was then raging.

A group including a dozen Smiths, three Platts, two Mills, one each by name Tredwell, Phillips, Wickes, Blydenburgh, Floyd, Saxton and Longbottom, bought tickets in "Mr. Avery's Lottery the fortune of which tickets shall be appropriated to the maintenance of a Godly Learned Orthodox Presbyterian minister in Smithtown."

The names of only a few of the fortunate ones who drew prizes are known. Lefferts

Lefferts of Bedford in Kings County drew Pachong Neck; Abraham Polhemus of Jamaica, Tuckers Neck; Jonathan Wright, Blue Point Neck. Humphrey Avery, jr. drew Swan Creek Neck through the middle of which Grove Avenue now runs.

One lot valued at 700 pounds was drawn by Capt. Thomas Clarke of Chelsea in New York, the grandfather of Clement Clarke Moore, author of "The Night before Christmas." This was the land

Continued on page 217

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## Lotteries

Continued from page 215

north of Main Street, the mill lot through the middle of which Maple Avenue now runs.

Avery realized not only enough to pay all his debts but also to enable him to repurchase a very large part of the tract. Capt. Clarke sold back his lot to him for 500 pounds. Avery seems also to have repurchased the Pine Neck, Swan Creek and Short Neck lots. These he gave to his son Humphrey Avery, jr. on Feb. 27, 1759. The Blue Point lot also came back to the elder Avery. A very large and valuable part of these lands was long held by his descendants.

One recalls that both Princeton and Union Universities were also founded on lottery schemes. In the College of New Jersey (later Princeton) lottery there were 8888 tickets and 3088 prizes.

Of incidental interest is the fact that Jonathan Edwards, the third president of what is now Princeton University, succeeded Rev. Aaron Burr, the one time Vice President of the U. S. who killed Hamilton in a duel, whose son of the same name married a daughter of Edwards, the renowned New England theologian, and that the latter's son Jonathan Edwards, jr. became the second president of Union College.

## "Sandy"

Continued from Page 206

and rather frequently directly in front of the police barracks. Try listening on a still day between an hour before sundown and an hour after or the usual beach sounds and noises will smother out the tiny sandpiper conversations. I hope you may recognize Sandy.

## Forum Articles Cited

Cited in the July issue of New York History were the following articles from the April and May issues of the Long Island Forum: "Passing of a Lighthouse", Capt. Eugene S. Griffing; "Four Doctors of Jamaica," Marion F. Overton; "Islip's Civil War Hero", John

Tooker; "Daniel Denton, School Teacher", Rev. Charles A. Ver-  
tanes; "Dr. Horsford's Shelter Island", Dr. Clarence Ashton Wood.

Since my retirement from teaching in February '55 I am finding the Forum a most interesting and enjoyable leisure time entertainment and education. Margaret E. J. Yanson, Woodside.

## The Precious Past

We look forward to the arrival of the Forum each month. You are really doing a great service for Long Island. What with the rapidly changing present, the past becomes more precious and it is important to have its story preserved so that future generations can "look at the record."

Mrs. Jewett H. Smith Sayville

## Corrections

In "The Loves of Senator Smith" by Chester G. Osborne (page 185, second paragraph, Oct. issue) the word Treadmill should have been Tredwell.

Dr. Wood, senior contributing editor, writes as follows in reference to his article (Oct. issue):

I am sorry you changed my word thrasher to thresher. Uncle Eli also said tunnel instead of funnel, callated instead of calculated, and wet for whet. He used to tell me to throw out the stables and in his prayers he often had one foot in the grave and the other all but.

Don't want to miss an issue of the Forum. Clarence A. Glover, Waterford, Conn.

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By Paul Bailey

The author, whose two volume history of the island (1949) is used by schools, libraries and students generally, herewith presents the subject in a lighter vein.

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**Estevez Wins Fashion Award**

Luis Estevez who builds clothes particularly noted for their architectural necklines, started out to be an architect in truth. In three years he has rocketed to fame and fortune as a fashion designer and to partnership in the firm of Grenelle-Estevez, Ltd. A fresh triumph for this 26-year-old designer came last month when he received the highest honor that fashion can pay, the Coty American Fashion Critics' Award.

It was fate in the shape of a summer job at Lord and Taylor that first altered the course of his career. He became interested in fashion design and the store became interested in him. Estevez enrolled at the Traphagen School of Fashion, 1680 Broadway (52nd St.), New York, where he studied cutting, draping and design, and he was soon creating the clothes for which he is now famous.

Mr. Estevez makes it four-in-a-row for Traphagen School of Fashion as alma mater of the Fashion Critics' Prize winners. His 1956 Award was preceded by similar honors to Anne Klein, 1955; James Galanos, 1954; and Helen Lee, 1953; all former Traphagen students of whom the school is exceptionally proud. In the photograph, Mr. Estevez welcomes in his designing room a current Traphagen student, Sophie Stathe, and shows her a new dress in the making.

**Reapers and Mowers of 1855**

The story in the September Forum by your venerable senior contributing editor, Dr. Clarence Ashton Wood, about Scythes, Cradles and Flails, reminds me that the decade before the Civil War saw a number of reaping and mowing machines in use. Among them were Manny's, Ketcham's, Allen's, and McCormick & Atkins', any and all of which were warranted to cut from ten to fifteen acres of grass or grain in a single day, as efficiently as could be done by the scythe or cradle. Prices complete ranged from \$150 up.

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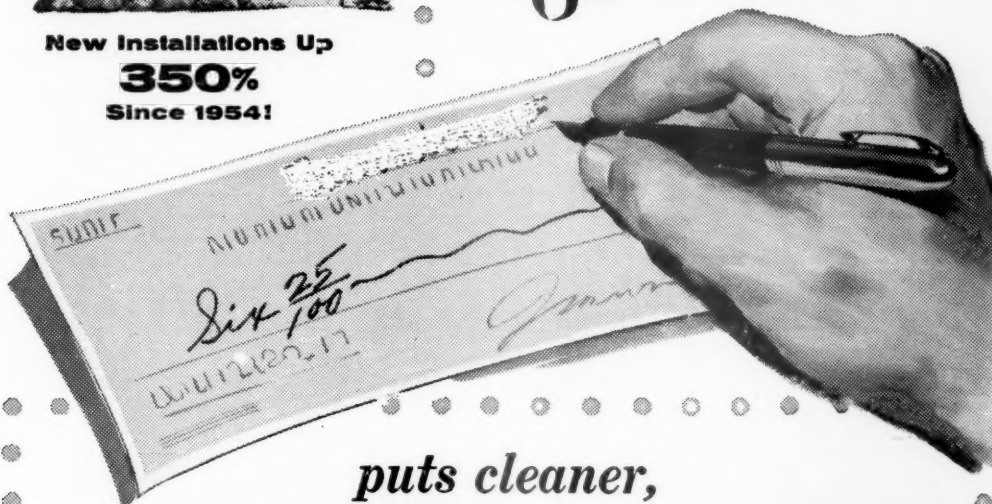


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**Sag Harbor Query**

In Bailey's History, chapter 25 on the island's Catholic Churches, the Rev. John K. Sharp states that in 1838 a Catholic church was started in Sag Harbor. \*\*\* Could some Forum reader tell me which of the two present Catholic churches there is the older and which occupies the original site of 1838. Mrs. Howard M. Van Cleaf  
Rockville Centre

**The Answer**

In reply to your inquiry regarding the first Catholic Church in Sag Harbor, the following facts are taken from our booklet, "Built by the Whalers": St. Andrews Catholic Church, a building that is now the Parochial School, was the first Catholic Church in Sag Harbor in 1840. Services had been held in the home of Michael Burke, a layman, as far back as 1820. I believe this first church building was bought from the Methodists when they built a new church. This is and always was the only Catholic Church in Sag Harbor, a new church being built in 1873.

(Mrs.) Josephine Basset  
Sag Harbor Village Historian

**Miss Strong's Tales**

The eighteenth pamphlet of "true tales from the early days of Long Island" has just been issued by the Long Island Forum. These factual stories by Miss Kate W. Strong, eight in number, are reprinted from the Long Island Forum for which this well informed author and historian has been writing for more than a decade and a half.

As with former pamphlets, only 200 numbered copies of this one have been printed, and it sells for \$1 postpaid. Orders should be addressed to Miss Strong, "The Cedars", Setauket, L. I.

**St. James Church, Elmhurst**

Replying to inquiry: The above Episcopal Church marks its founding as of 1704 although as early as 1642 the Rev. Francis Doughty called the people of that town to "assemble on Sunday morning in the Block house at the head of the new town (Newtown) creek to worship Almighty God". The Block house in question was not a block-house but, according to local students, the home of Adrian Block. Editor.

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